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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/669,709

09/25/2003

Yung-lyul Lee

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6387

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

PHILIPPE, GIMS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/21/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/669,709	Applicant(s) LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner Gims S. Philippe	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6 and 8-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4 and 14-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment received July 1st, 2008 in which claims 1 was amended has been fully considered and entered, but the arguments are not deemed to be persuasive.

Response to Arguments

2. Regarding claim 1, the applicant argues that Fukuda fails to disclose or suggest checking whether all coefficients of all pixels in a predetermined region of data block are equal to zero or not, in combination with other elements of the claim.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. In col. 7, lines 51-67, Fukuda particularly notes that *"the quantization width becomes great as compression rate increases and there is a high probability that coefficients will be quantized to 0... For this reason, the decision of whether or not the transform coefficients are significant coefficients may be made depending on whether or not the value of each coefficient is zero instead of comparison of the absolute value of each coefficient with a threshold value as in the first embodiment. By doing so, non-zero coefficients are decided to be significant coefficients prior to the inverse quantization of transform coefficients of each block, and thus the coefficient decision circuit 14 of FIG. 1 composed of the absolute value circuit 31 and the threshold comparison circuit 32 can be replaced with a non-zero coefficient decision circuit 14A as shown in FIG. 5A."*

Art Unit: 2621

based on the above passage, it is clear that Fukuda at least determines whether the coefficients of the pixel are 0. The applicant should note that Fig. 14A, provides predetermined regions of 4X4, 3X3 and 1X1.

The rejection is repeated below in order to correlate with the amended claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, and 14-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda (US Patent no. 5,787,204).

Regarding claims 1, 4 and 16-19 Fukuda discloses an image data filtering apparatus and method for reducing blocking effect and noise when a frame of the image data is composed of data blocks of predetermined size (See Abstract and col. 3, lines 4-17), the method comprising checking whether all coefficients of pixels in a predetermined region of the data block are equal to zero or not (See Fukuda col. 10, lines 54-61), generating filtering information on whether the data block requires filtering depending on whether all coefficients of pixels in the predetermined region of the data block are equal

Art Unit: 2621

to zero or not (See Fukuda col. 10, lines 65-67, col. 11, lines 1-4), and filtering the data block passed through inverse quantization and inverse transform according to the generated filtering information (See Fukuda col. 11, lines 25-37 and col. 12, lines 62-67 and col. 13, lines 1-8).

As per claims 20-22, Fukuda further provides a method wherein the predetermined region includes a predetermined number of pixels and the predetermined region is smaller than the data block (See Fukuda fig. 14a, item 222).

As per claims 14-15, Fukuda's predetermined region further includes a predetermined number of pixels (See col. 10, lines 54-61).

As per claims 23-25, Fukuda does not limit the predetermined region to a square shape.

5. Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8-13 are allowed.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 2621

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S. Philippe whose telephone number is (571) 272-7336. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gims S Philippe
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

/G. S. P./
/Gims S Philippe/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621